

Vlach language in Serbia

The **Vlach language** (Romanian: *Limbă vlahă*; Serbian: Влашки језик, romanized: *Vlaški jezik*), known by the endonym *limba vlahă*^[1] or *lîmba vlahiei* (literally "Vlahian language"), is the Daco-Romanian varieties^{[2][3][4]} as they are spoken by the Vlach community of eastern Serbia.

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Status

Serbian statistics list Vlach and Romanian languages separately depending on what people declared in the census. This, however, does not mean that Serbian government has official position whether Vlach and Romanian are separate languages. ISO hadn't assigned it a separate language code to the ISO 639 standard. In the 2002 census, 40,054 people in Serbia declared themselves ethnic Vlachs and 54,818 people declared themselves native speakers of the Vlach language.

The Vlach language does not have any official status and it is not standardized,^[5] thus some members of Vlach community ask for official usage of standard Romanian in the areas inhabited by Vlachs until the standardization of the Vlach language.^[5]

For historical reasons connected with the multicultural region of Vojvodina, Romanian is listed as a separate language in latest Serbian census, the number of its speakers was 34,515, while 34,576 people declared themselves as ethnic Romanians. The declared Vlach speakers are mostly concentrated in eastern Serbia, mainly in the Timočka Krajina region and adjacent areas, while declared Romanian speakers are mostly concentrated in Vojvodina.



Major varieties (*graiuri*) of the Romanian language
 Blue: Southern varieties
 Red: Northern varieties

According to some sources in the media, Serbia recognized "Romanian" as the native language of the Vlach community, through the act of confirmation of the *National Council of the Vlach (Roumanian) National Minority* in August 2007; the organization had listed Romanian as the native language of the community in their statute.^{[6][7][8]}

Features

Its two main variants, **Ungurean** and **Țăran**, are subordinated forms of the Romanian varieties spoken in Banat and Oltenia, respectively.

The speakers have been isolated from Romania and their speech did not keep up with the neologisms (for some abstract notions, as well as technological, political and scientific concepts) borrowed by the Romanian speakers on the other shore of the Danube from French and Italian and as such, they're using Serbian counterparts instead, as Serbian has been the language of education for nearly two centuries.

Name

The English term *Vlach* comes from the Serbian term for the language (*vlaški*), while *Romanian* or *Roumanian* comes from the Romanian counterpart (*român/rumân*).^{[9][10]}

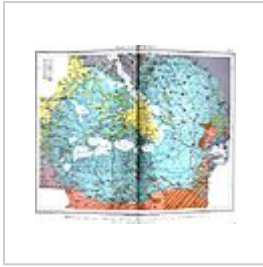
Further on, the Vlach Democratic Party of Serbia is called "Partidul Democrat al Rumânilor din Sârbia" and "Vlaška Demokratska Stranka" (Влашка демократска странка) in Serbian. This happens also with the others institutions of the Vlach minority.

Usage in media

Radio Zaječar [1] (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110725141405/http://www.danas.rs/20070319/hronika3.html>) and Radio Pomoravlje [2] (<http://radio.pomoravlje.net/>) broadcast programmes in the Vlach language.

Maps

The Romanian vocabulary in Central Serbia. Researches made by Gustav Weigand:



The Romanian linguistic area



The extension of the Banatian dialect in Central Serbia



See also

- Romance languages

References

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2. Gustav Weigand, *Linguistischer Atlas des dacorumänischen Sprachgebiets*, 1909, Leipzig: Barth
3. Petru Neiescu, Eugen Beltechi, Nicolae Mocanu, *Atlas lingvistic al regiunii Valea Timocului – Contribuții la atlasul lingvistic al graiurilor românești dintre Morava, Dunăre și Timoc*, Cluj-Napoca, 2006
4. Slavoljub Gacović, *Od Rimljana i latinskog do Rumuna Timočana i vlaškog*, Nacionalni savet vlaške nacionalne manjine, Bor, 2008
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națională”), published by BBC on 17 August 2007: "Vlachs were finally recognised as a national minority and the Romanian language was accepted as their native language"

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8. "Serbia recognised that the Vlachs of Timoc speak Romanian" (http://www.gardianul.ro/2007/08/03/externe-c3/serbia_a_recunoscut_ca_vlahii_din_timoc_vorbesc_rom_neste-s98924.html) ("*Serbia a recunoscut că «vlahii» din Timoc vorbesc românește*"), published in *Gardianul*, 3 August 2007
9. "Ziua.net" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070218010157/http://www.ziua.net/display.php?data=2004-05-17&id=147558>). Archived from the original (<http://www.ziua.net/display.php?id=147558&data=2004-05-17>) on 18 February 2007. Retrieved 24 September 2006.
10. Interview with Predrag Balašević, president of the Romanian/Vlach Democratic Party of Serbia (http://2004.rgnpress.ro/index.php?option=com_ab_calendar&month=09&year=2004&day=02&Itemid=1): "We all know that we call ourselves in Romanian Romanians and in Serbian Vlachs."

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